

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6079
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
INVESTMENT IN IRRIGATION PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the public investment in agricultural sector comprising of major and medium irrigation projects has considerably declined during the last five years;
- (b) if so, whether the maintenance and operation of irrigation system in most States has deteriorated because of the weak cost recovery;
- (c) if so, whether the agricultural sector has been adversely affected as a result thereof; and
- (d) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to meet the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a): No, Sir. In absolute terms there has been a consistent increase in financial outlay in last 5 years in the irrigation sector. However, percentage share of investment in the irrigation sector including major and medium irrigation projects in relation to the total public investment over different plan periods has consistently declined.
- (b) & (c): Operation and maintenance cost of irrigation systems are met from the Non-Plan budget of the States. The deterioration of operation and maintenance in most of the States is mainly due to subsidized water charges and weak recovery of water tariff. Only about 40% of the agricultural area of the country is irrigated.
- (d): The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) adopted by Government of India, aims at a major revival of public investment in irrigation infrastructure and water management. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, according to the Approach Paper, is an important instrument for augmenting financial resources of state government to support the ongoing irrigation schemes.